



*For Immediate Release*  
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## ***Training key to Iraqi reconstruction capacity***

Success of the Iraq reconstruction effort is dependent on the capability and capacity of the people of Iraq. Part of that success is providing Iraqi engineers with the tools and experience in managing construction projects. Providing training to engineers is one way the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is assisting the Iraqi people increase their reconstruction capacity. Reconstruction is having a measurable impact restoring the long neglected utilities and infrastructure of the country, employing Iraqis, and is improving the Quality of Life in Iraq.

The Corps' Danger Resident Office, near Tikrit, recently held a Construction Quality Management (CQM) workshop for local Iraqi engineers. Derek Chow, Danger Resident Office Engineer developed and led the training. Before arriving in Iraq Chow was a senior project manager in the Corps' Honolulu District Civil and Public Works Branch responsible for managing and overseeing federal water resources development projects in the planning and design phase. "The workshop was a success and all participants gained an overview of the CQM system," said Chow. "Weekly meetings are planned to continue building the understanding and implementation of the CQM process." The end-result will be Iraqi team members providing quality assurance inspections of projects in the Salah ad Din province.

The objective of the CQM system is to provide quality durable construction products for the Iraqi people. Relevant regulations used as a guide for the training workshop, including ER 1180-1-6, Construction Quality Management, and EM 385-1-1, Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual.

CQM provides the guidelines that ensure a quality product results while promoting a safe and healthy working environment. The process ensures the work is acceptable to the specific contract throughout the contract up to turn over of the finished project to the customer. Chow said, "CQM is the key to reconstructing infrastructure that will lead to stabilization of the Iraqi people's lives."

Participants attending the workshop reviewed the CQM system defining the differences in roles of the contractor and the government. As with all technical material, a good bit of time was spent on terms and definitions. The CQM process, reporting procedures, and safety requirements at projects was discussed during the workshop. "Throughout the

workshop, the QA engineers and project engineers were able to engage in discussions on various general and project related topics,” Chow said.

Security and construction go hand in hand. Chow said. “The safety of our people and our partners is our top priority. We take every precaution necessary to protect them as they accomplish their jobs.” Intimidation and the insurgency have made the reconstruction more difficult in some areas. Despite the obstacles, much of Iraq is safe and construction continues.

The engineers that participated in the workshop agree that the training and follow on weekly meetings is helping them understand how to manage construction projects. They believe that by adopting this CQM system, the quality of construction will be raised and they will become proficient in managing projects.

This is not a one-time opportunity but the first building block in an ongoing training process that will offered as needed. All new staff joining Danger Resident Office will receive the training in an effort to hasten their effectiveness as a new team member.

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Photo Cut line

Partnering2: Derek Chow, Resident Engineer, Danger Resident Office instructs Iraqi engineers in Quality Control Management. Derek is a Senior Project Manager in the Honolulu District’s Civil & Public Works Branch. (Photo Tom Urbaniak)



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